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will collect and diffuse information calculated to discourage war and promote universal peace; that we will have stated seasons of prayer for this object, and unite with others so far as we can, to promote the object, until 'peace on earth' shall be diffused every where;—and we adopt the following

## CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This society shall be denominated the PEACE SOCIETY OF MISSION INSTITUTE, and shall be auxiliary to the American Peace Society.

ART. 2. The officers of this society shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary, who shall act as Treasurer.

ART. 3. This society shall hold *regular* meetings quarterly, on the third Wednesdays of July, October, January and April; and *special* meetings at the discretion of the President.

ART. 4. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

The preceding intelligence was accompanied with some strong, pertinent remarks on the general subject of peace; but our limits compel us reluctantly to omit them for the present.

## RENEWED PETITIONS ON A CONGRESS OF NATIONS.

There are strong reasons for continuing to solicit our national legislature in behalf of this great object; and we would invite the prompt and earnest attention of our friends to the subject, and urge them to secure in season as large a number of signatures as possible, and then see that the petition is in every case entrusted to the right man in Congress. We cannot now go into a discussion of the general subject; that has already been done in the number for November, 1838; but we would refresh the memory of our readers with a few points which ought to stimulate their zeal.

1. Look at *the magnitude of the object*; second to no other reform now or ever before the Christian world; no less than the utter extinction of war by introducing substitutes that shall obviate its supposed necessity, gradually supersede its use, and thus bring its vast complication of crimes and woes to a perpetual end.

2. Remember, too, *the necessity of legislative action* for this purpose. War is a creature of legislation; it comes and goes, lives and dies at the bidding of statesmen; and, if war is to be abolished entirely, or prevented in any case, it must be by their instrumentality. We can reach our object only through them; and sooner or later we must rouse them to the work.

3. And the time, we think, has fully come for incipient action. The friends of peace have been, for nearly a quarter of a century, at work with a good degree of success; and public opinion, especially

in England and America, is pretty well prepared for some movement of this sort. We speak not only from inquiry, but from personal observation; and rarely will you find, in communities at all conversant with the subject, a man of intelligence, unless strangely wayward, who does not readily approve the project as feasible, important and probably effective.

4. The business of petitioning has been auspiciously commenced. The action of our own legislature, though delayed for several years, was in the end more favorable than the most sanguine had ventured to expect; the petitions to Congress, in 1837-8, though few, were treated in a way incomparably more encouraging than the first appeals to the Parliament of Great Britain against the slave-trade; nor has there been any action, or want of action, on the subject, which ought for a moment to discourage the renewed and increased urgency of our requests.

5. The discontinuance of petitions, or a decrease of their number, would be injurious to our cause; and we must probably continue them many years, and multiply them so far as to press upon the ear of Congress echoes of the popular will on this subject from every quarter of the country, before we can expect our rulers to take hold of the matter in earnest. They will go when and where the people go.

6. In no country on earth could such an enterprise be started with equal prospects of success. We have many reasons for this opinion, but no room to state them; and can only say, that this view imposes upon us peculiar obligations in respect to this part of our cause.

We know that some good men have too little confidence in our rulers to address them on such subjects with any hope of success, and shrink from the task in disgust and despair; but we should not forget that this is one of the best methods of bringing the subject before the community at large, and that much good may be expected from its bare presentation in the halls of our national legislature. It forces politicians to look at it somewhat; it turns the attention of the people to it; and light will thus reach a multitude of minds inaccessible to any direct influences we can ourselves exert.

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ANNUAL CONCERT OF PREACHING AND OF PRAYER ON THE SUBJECT  
OF PEACE.

We hope it will be superfluous to remind our readers, in the ministry or the church, of this concert. If the pacific principles of the gospel are ever to prevail, they must, like all its other truths, be enforced in the usual modes of religious instruction, and not be thrust into fasts, and thanksgivings, and other semi-secular occasions, just as if it were no part of the *whole* counsel of God which his min-